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March 25, 2025

SB 313 - FAV

Election Law - Postelection Tabulation Audits - Risk-Limiting Audits

Dear Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Bonnie, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The American Statistical Association endorses and recommends risk-limiting audits (RLA). The Brennan Center for Justice, Common Cause, Public Citizen, and Verified Voting advocate for RLA. When risk-limiting audit procedures are followed, there is only a limited chance that an incorrectly reported outcome could go undetected. RLAs can adapt to various kinds of voting systems, as long as there are voter-verified ballots to audit. Contests with a wide margin can be audited with very few ballots, freeing up resources for closer contests. The election schedules in Maryland can be re-defined if needed to allow for sufficient time to complete an RLA for close contests before the certification deadline. Colorado, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia have successfully implemented RLAs.

Secular Maryland advocates for best overall fit with the relevant empirical evidence based laws. Accordingly, we endorse this bill and request that it be enacted into law.

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